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(54) **IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM ADAPTABLE TO A DUAL-MODE IMAGE DEVICE**

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G06T 5/00 (2006.01)

G06T 5/20 (2006.01)

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G06T 5/008 (2013.01); **G06T 5/20** (2013.01);

H04N 5/374 (2013.01); **G06T 2207/10024**

(2013.01); **G06T 2207/20024** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **G06T 5/001**; **G06T 5/20**; **G06T 5/40**;

H04N 1/60217; **H04N 9/045**

See application file for complete search history.

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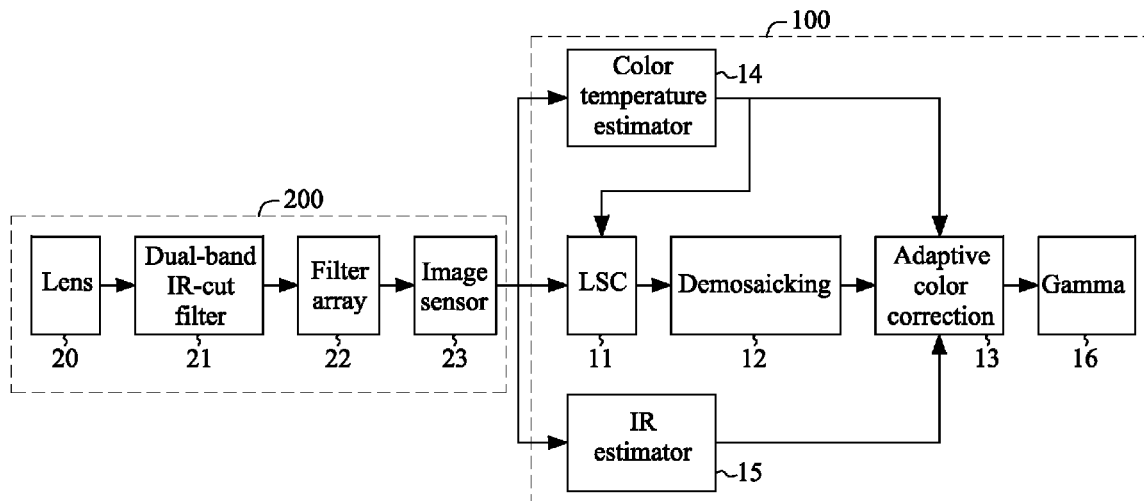
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(57)

ABSTRACT

An image processing system adaptable to a dual-mode image device includes an adaptive color correction system coupled to receive an image, and configured to adaptively correct for color distortion according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of a pixel of the image and an IR signal from the dual-mode image device associated with a light source.

16 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



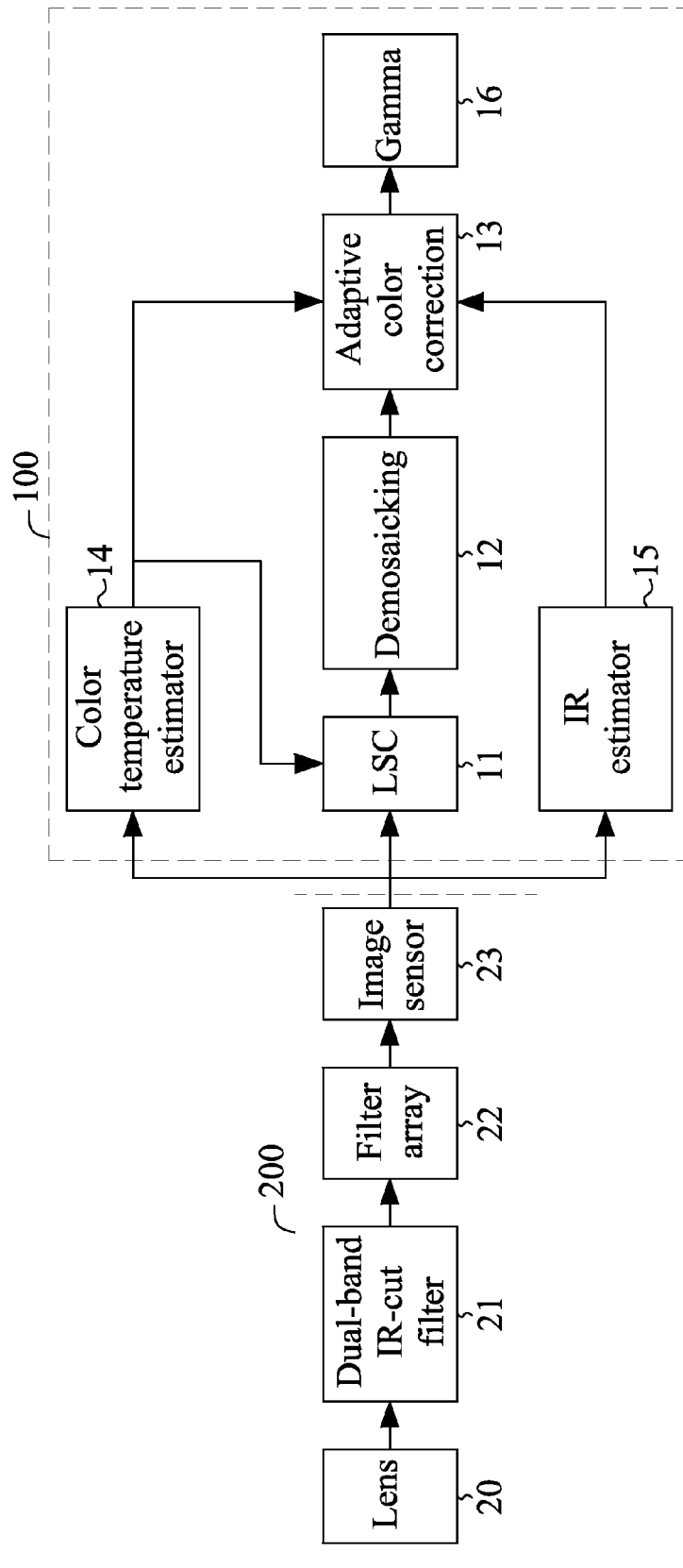


FIG.1

22

B	G	B	G
IR	R	IR	R
B	G	B	G
IR	R	IR	R

FIG.2A

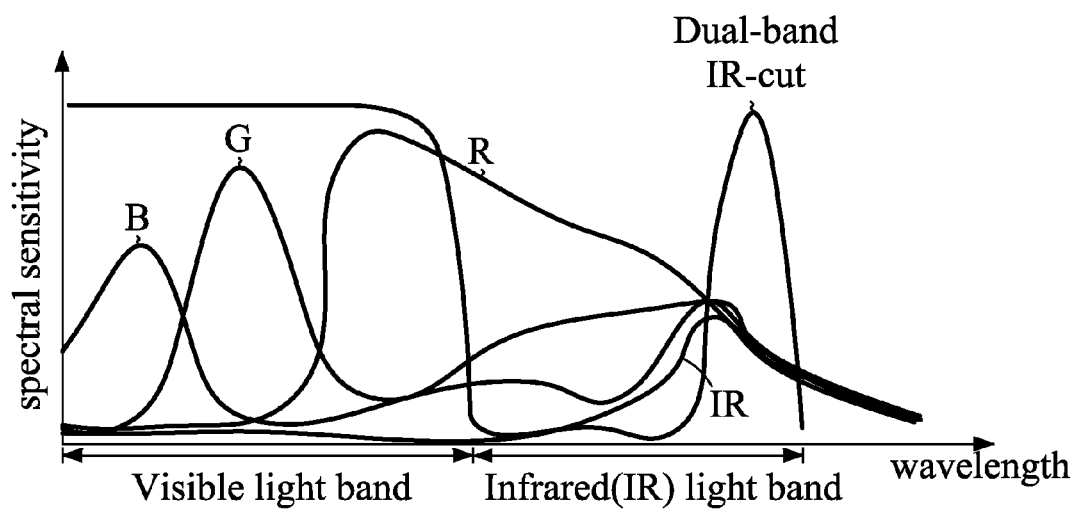


FIG.2B

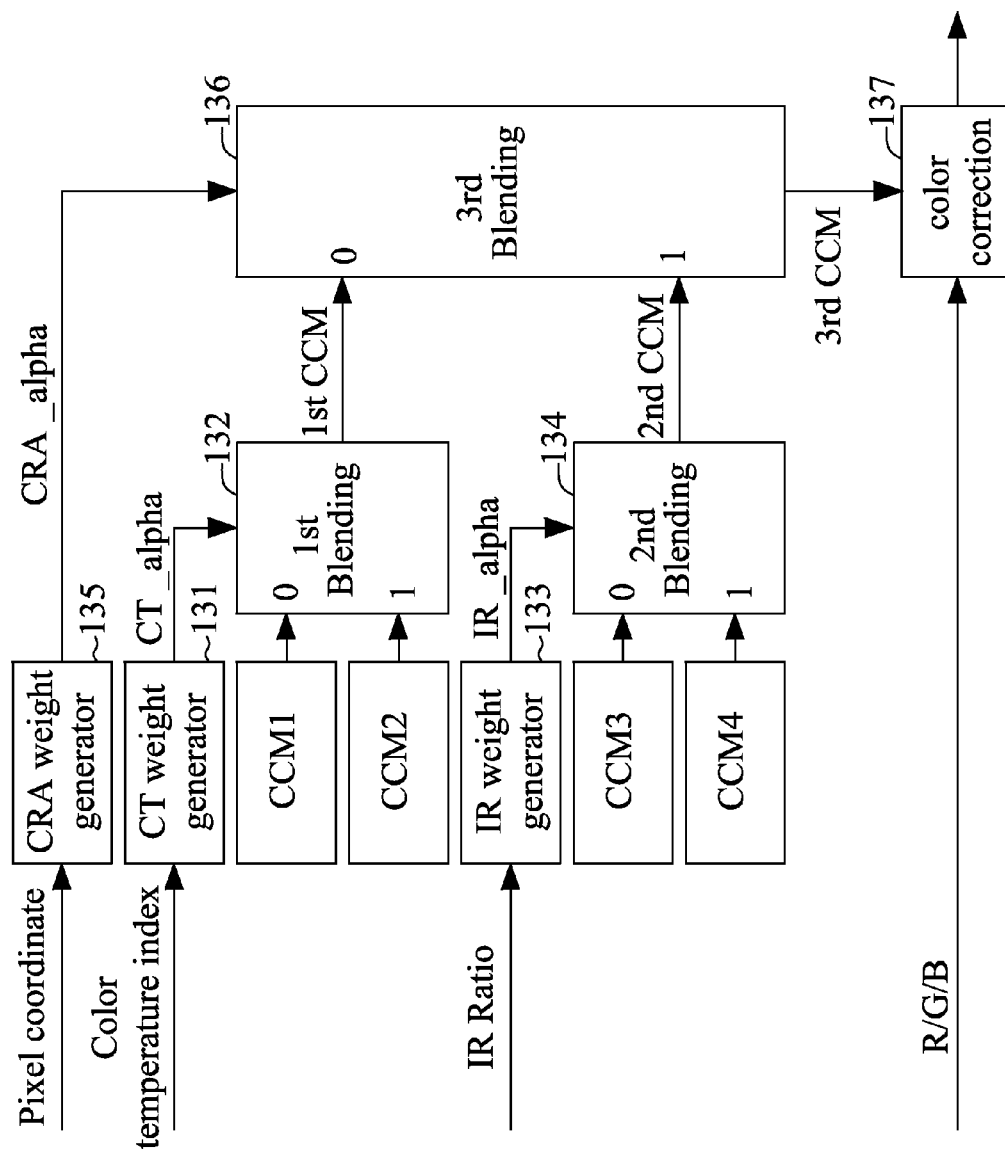


FIG.3A

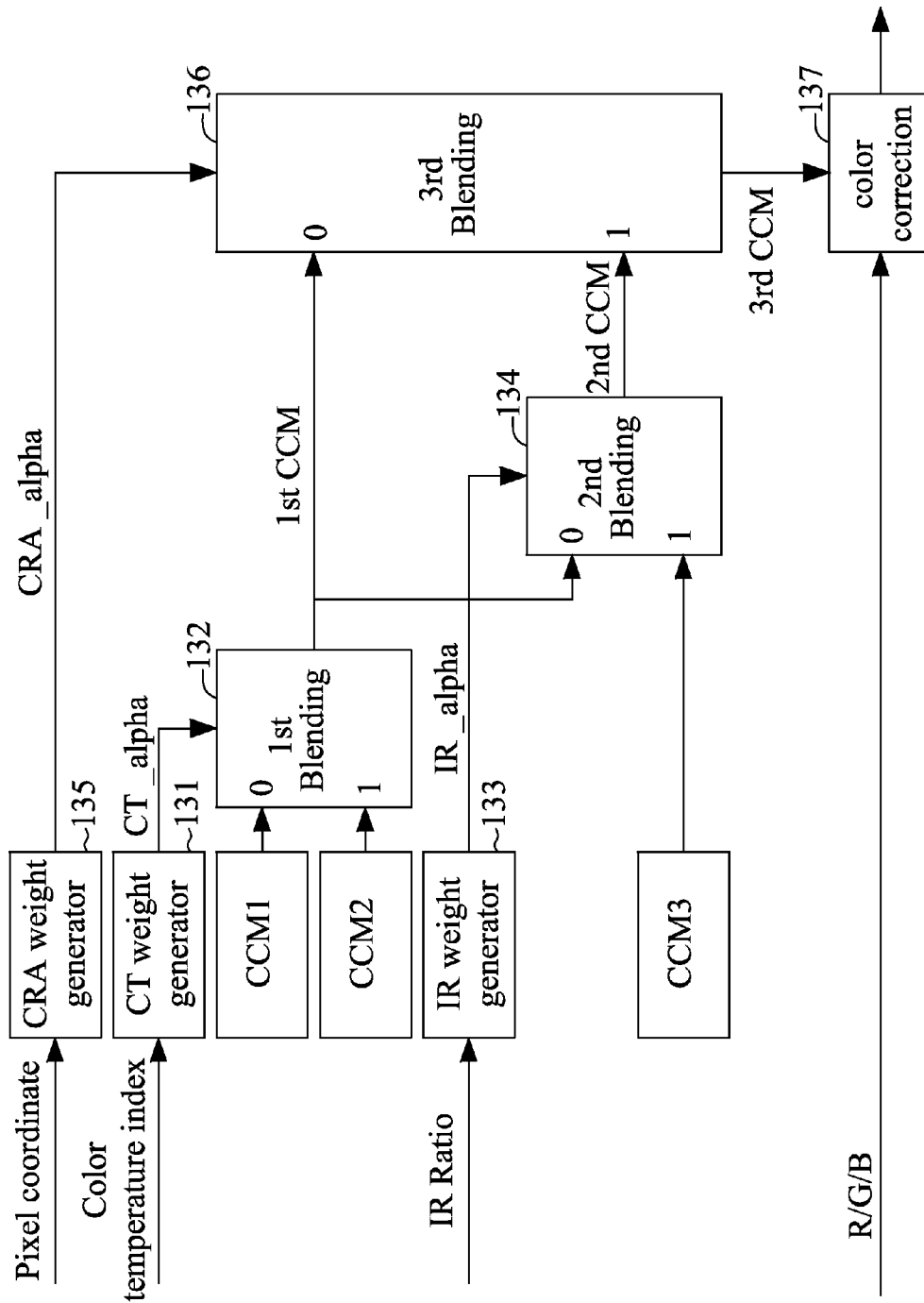


FIG.3B

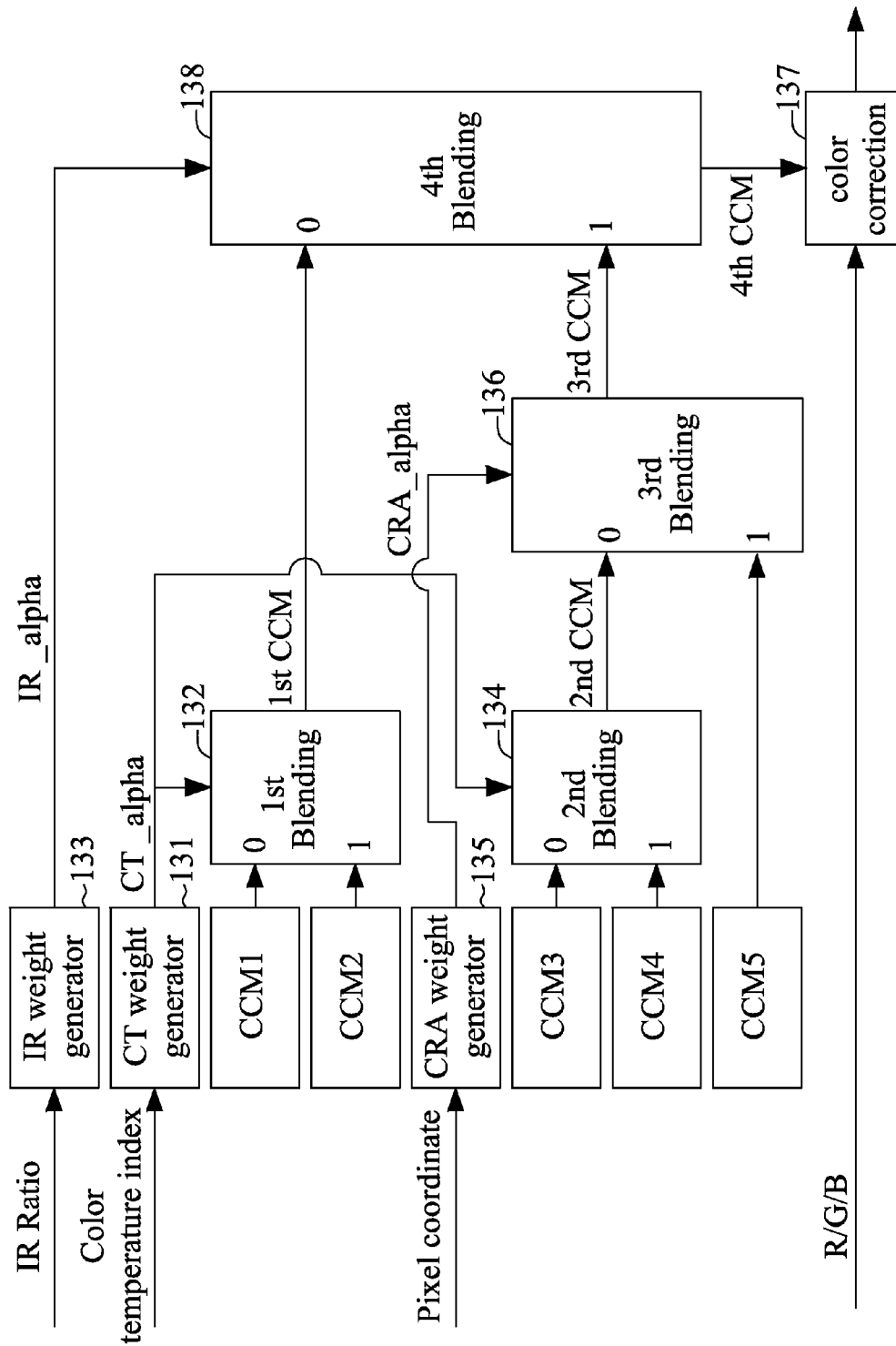


FIG.3C

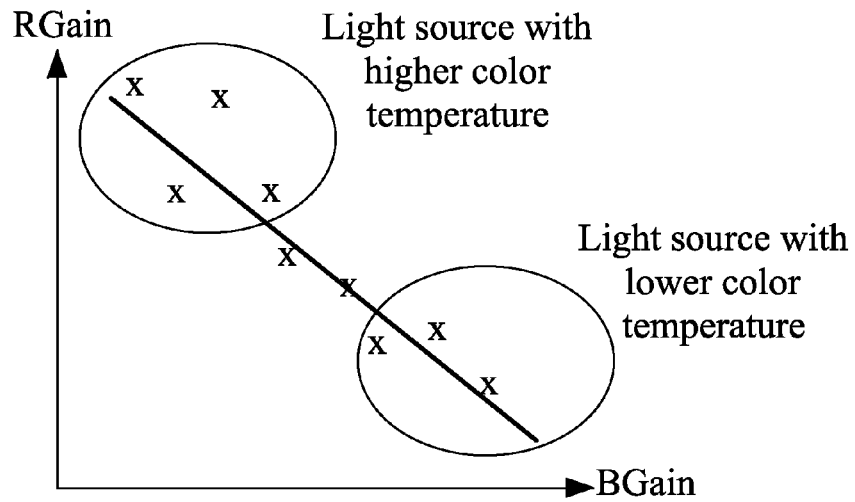


FIG. 4A

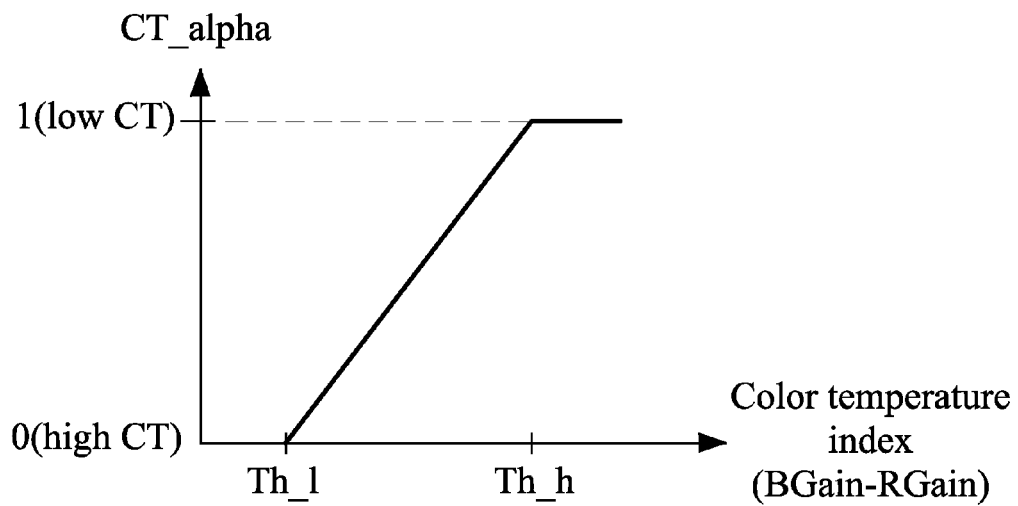


FIG. 4B

15

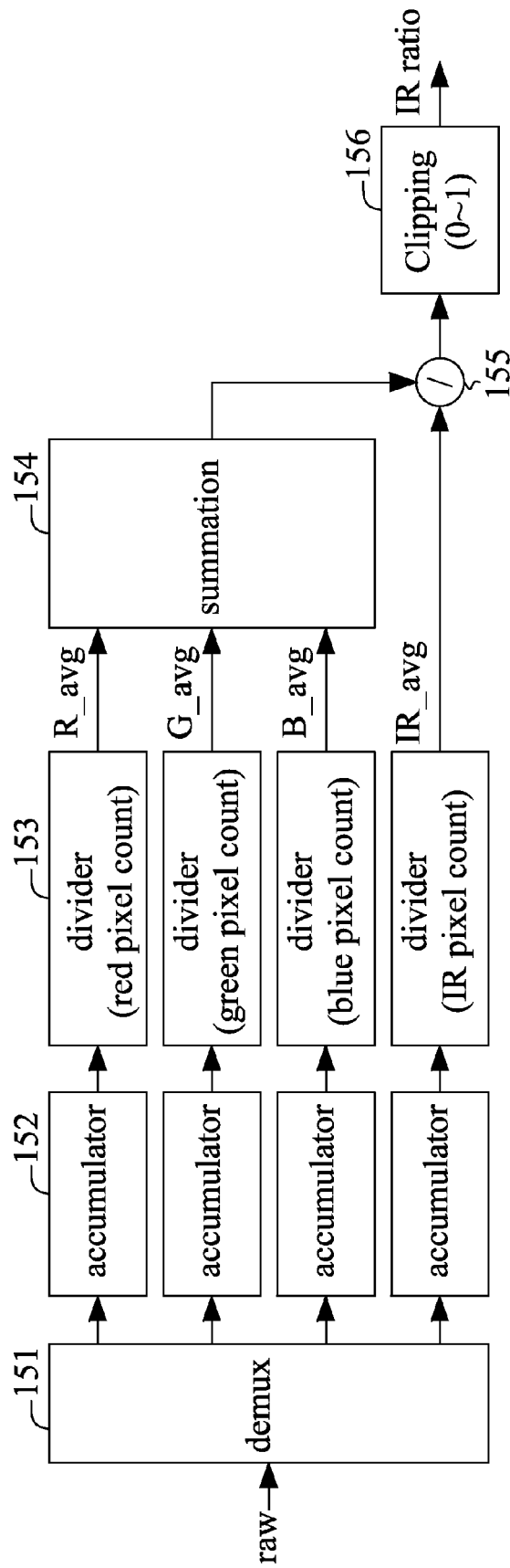


FIG.5A

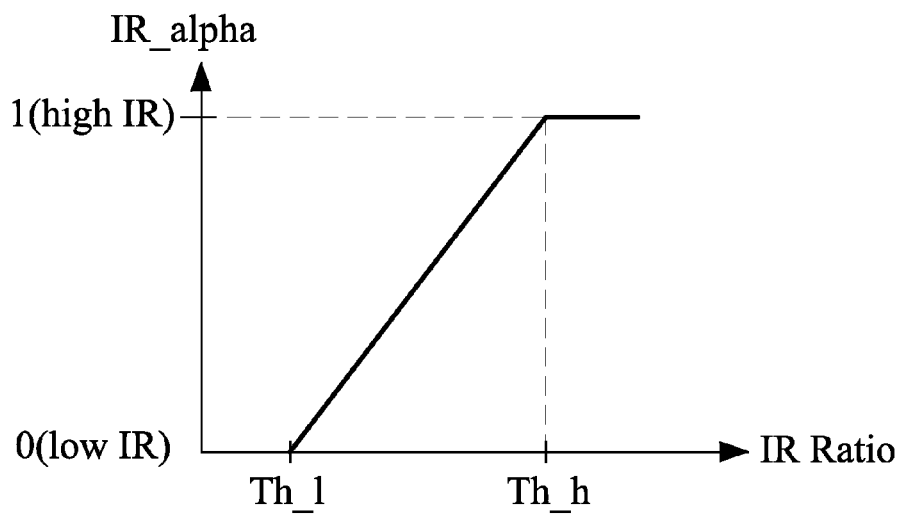


FIG.5B

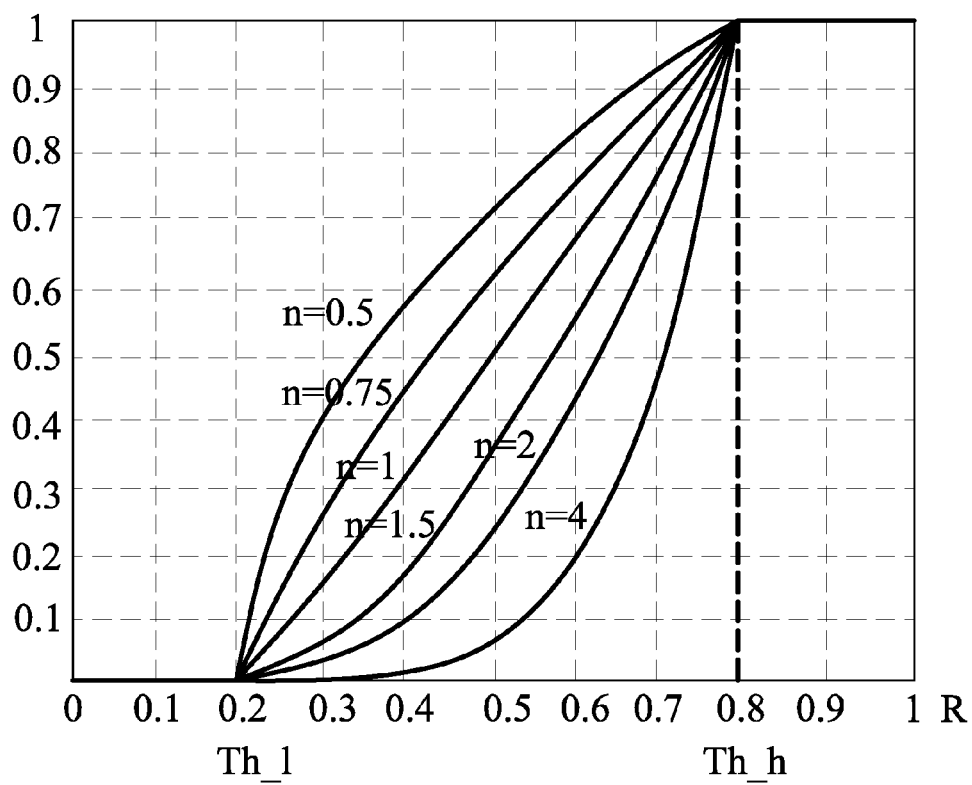


FIG.6A

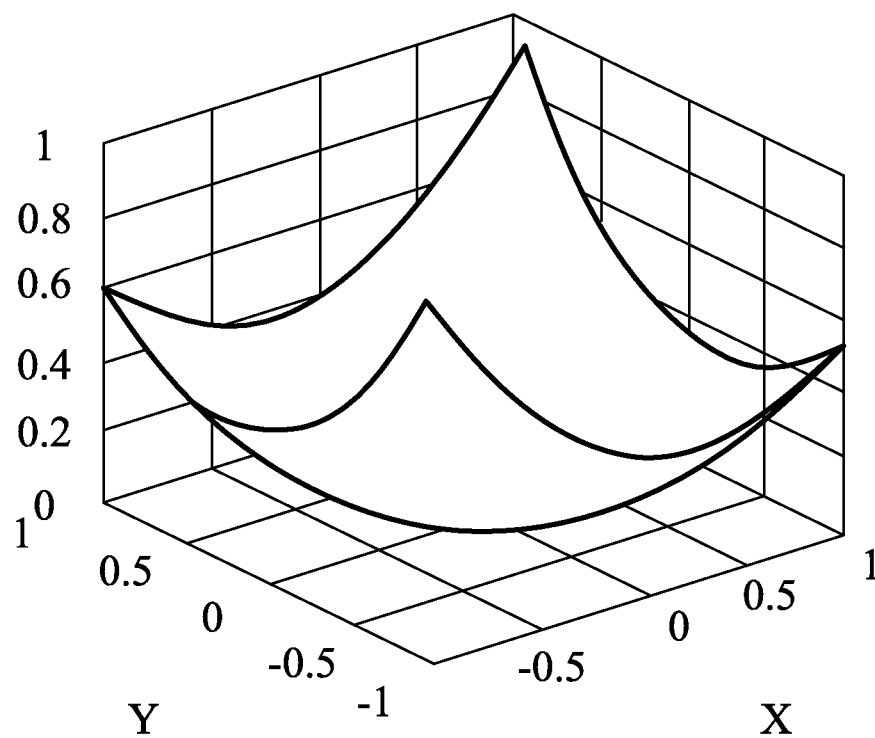


FIG.6B

1

IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM ADAPTABLE TO A DUAL-MODE IMAGE DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to an image processing system, and more particularly to an adaptive color correction system adaptable to a dual-mode image device.

2. Description of Related Art

In an imaging system, lens shading is a phenomenon that causes pixels located away from a center pixel of a pixel array to have a lower pixel signal value even when all pixels are exposed to the same illumination condition. As a result, brightness of an image falls off from center to corners. In other words, maximum brightness may be at or around the center but fall along a radius of the pixel array. The lens shading phenomenon may be resulted, for example, from lens mechanism, optics, sensor pixels, ray traveling distance, aperture effect or ray incident angle to pixels.

Lens shading correction (LSC) is thus commonly proposed to compensate for the brightness falloff by applying different gains, particularly for the pixels away from the center of the pixel array.

A complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor not only senses radiance in visible band but also radiance in near-infrared (IR) band. An IR-cut filter is used to pass the visible band wavelengths and block IR band wavelengths, such that discoloration caused by IR band wavelengths may be avoided. In some applications like surveillance, however, artificial IR light may be applied to increase visibility in low-light condition. To receive IR band signals in low light with the artificial IR light and avoid discoloration in normal light scene without the artificial IR light, a dual-band IR-cut filter may be used.

Color correction is commonly applied in an image processing system in order to correct for color distortion. A need has arisen to propose a novel color correction scheme that is adaptable to some applications like surveillance.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the embodiment of the present invention to provide an image processing system adaptable to a dual-mode image device, in which correction on a pixel of the image is performed according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of the pixel and an IR signal associated with a light source.

According to one embodiment, an image processing system adaptable to a dual-mode image device includes an adaptive color correction system coupled to receive an image, and configured to adaptively correct for color distortion according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of a pixel of the image and an IR signal from the dual-mode image device associated with a light source.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a block diagram illustrating an image processing system adaptable to a dual-mode image device according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2A shows an exemplary arrangement of the color filters and IR filters constructing the filter array of FIG. 1;

FIG. 2B shows an exemplary spectral sensitivity of the dual-band IR-cut filter and the filter array of FIG. 1;

2

FIG. 3A shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system of FIG. 1 according to a first specific embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3B shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system of FIG. 1 according to a second specific embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3C shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system of FIG. 1 according to a third specific embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4A shows a relationship among color temperatures, gains for red and gains for blue;

FIG. 4B shows a relationship between the CT weight and the gain difference of blue and red;

FIG. 5A shows a block diagram illustrated of the IR estimator of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5B shows a relationship between the IR weight and the IR ratio;

FIG. 6A shows a relationship between the CRA weight and a distance of a pixel with respect to an image center; and

FIG. 6B shows another relationship among the CRA weight, an X-coordinate and a Y-coordinate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 shows a block diagram illustrating an image processing system **100** adaptable to a dual-mode image device **200** according to one embodiment of the present invention. The dual-mode image device **200** primarily includes a lens **20** which passes, e.g., transmits and refracts, light. In the specification, the term “lens” may refer to either a single lens or an assembly of lenses.

The dual-mode image device **200** also includes a dual-band IR-cut filter **21** that is optically coupled to receive the light passed from the lens **20** in order to pass visible light (in a first band) and a range of IR light (in a second band). The dual-mode image device **200** further includes a filter array **22** that is composed of color filters (e.g., red (R), green (G) and blue (B) filter) and infrared (IR) filters. The filter array **22** is optically coupled to receive the light passed from the dual-band IR-cut filter **21** in order to generate optical color information. FIG. 2A shows an exemplary arrangement of the color filters and IR filters constructing the filter array **22** of FIG. 1. This exemplary filter array **22** is 25% red, 25% green, 25% blue and 25% infrared. FIG. 2B shows an exemplary spectral sensitivity of the dual-band IR-cut filter **21** and the filter array **22** of FIG. 1.

The dual-mode image device **200** further includes an image sensor **23**, such as a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor, that is disposed below the filter array **22** to convert the optical color information to an electronic signal, which is then subjected to processing by the image processing system **100**. In the specification, the composing blocks of the image processing system **100** may refer to a structural or functional entity that may be performed, for example, by circuitry such as a digital image processor.

In the embodiment, the image processing system **100** may include a lens shading correction (LSC) unit **11** that is used to correct for lens shading artifacts. The details of LSC may be referred to, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 8,228,406 by Kuo et al., entitled “Adaptive lens shading correction” or U.S. Pat. No. 8,130,292 by Lee, entitled “Scene illumination adaptive lens shading correction for imaging devices,” disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The image processing system **100** may also include a demosaicking unit **12** that is coupled to receive an output of the LSC unit **11**, and is configured to reconstruct a full color image from the incomplete color samples outputted from the

image sensor **23** overlaid with the filter array **22**. The demosaicking unit **12** may be typically performed, for example, by interpolation technique.

The image processing system **100** of the embodiment may include an adaptive color correction system **13** that is coupled to receive a (full color) image reconstructed by the demosaicking unit **12**, and is configured to adaptively correct for color distortion. According to one aspect of the embodiment, the adaptive color correction system **13** performs correction on a pixel of the image according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of the pixel and an IR signal (from the image sensor **23**) associated with a light source. Alternatively, the adaptive color correction system **13** performs correction on a pixel of the image according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of the pixel, a color temperature of a light source, and an IR signal associated with a light source. In the specification, a pixel located farther away from a center of the lens **20** has a higher CRA than a pixel located nearer the center of the lens **20**.

FIG. 3A shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system **13** of FIG. **1** according to a first specific embodiment of the present invention. In the embodiment, four color correction matrices CCM1, CCM2, CCM3 and CCM4 are provided. Specifically, CCM1 represents a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source and for an image center, CCM2 represents a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source and for an image center, CCM3 represents a color correction matrix for a light source with a low(-intensity) IR signal and for an image corner, and CCM4 represents a color correction matrix for a light source with a high(-intensity) IR signal and for an image corner. In the specification, the terms “high” and “low” are used in a comparative sense when compared to each other. Alternatively, a high color-temperature is a color temperature higher than a predefined value, and a low color temperature is a color temperature lower than the predefined value. Likewise, a high intensity is an intensity higher than a predetermined value, and a low intensity is an intensity lower than the predetermined value.

The adaptive color correction system **13** may include a color temperature (CT) weight generator **131** that is coupled to receive a color temperature index, which may be provided, for example, by a color temperature estimator **14**. The CT weight generator **131** is configured to generate a color temperature (CT) weight CT_alpha for blending CCM1 and CCM2 by using a first blending unit **132**, thereby generating a first blended CCM.

The adaptive color correction system **13** may also include an IR weight generator **133** that is coupled to receive an IR ratio (i.e., a ratio of an IR signal to color signals), which may be provided, for example, by an IR estimator **15**. The IR weight generator **133** is configured to generate an IR weight IR_alpha for blending CCM3 and CCM4 by using a second blending unit **134**, thereby generating a second blended CCM.

The adaptive color correction system **13** may further include a CRA weight generator **135** that is configured to generate a CRA weight CRA_alpha according to a pixel coordinate of the image. The generated CRA weight CRA_alpha is used to blend the first blended CCM and the second blended CCM by using a third blending unit **136**, thereby generating a third (or final) blended CCM. The third blended CCM is finally used to perform color correction on color signals (e.g., R, G and B) by a color correction unit **137**, thereby generating corrected color signals. The corrected color signals may be subjected to further processing, such as gamma correction by a gamma unit **16**, as exemplified in FIG. **1**.

FIG. 3B shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system of FIG. **1** according to a second specific embodiment of the present invention. The second specific embodiment is similar to the first specific embodiment except for the following difference. As shown in FIG. 3B, three color correction matrices CCM1, CCM2 and CCM3 are provided. Specifically, CCM1 represents a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source and for an image center, CCM2 represents a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source and for an image center, and CCM3 represents a color correction matrix for a light source with a high IR signal and for an image corner. The CT weight CT_alpha is used to blend CCM1 and CCM2 by using a first blending unit **132**, thereby generating a first blended CCM. The IR weight IR_alpha is used to blend the first blended CCM and CCM3 by using a second blending unit **134**, thereby generating a second blended CCM. The CRA weight CRA_alpha is used to blend the first blended CCM and the second blended CCM by using a third blending unit **136**, thereby generating a third (or final) blended CCM.

FIG. 3C shows a detailed block diagram of the adaptive color correction system of FIG. **1** according to a third specific embodiment of the present invention. The third specific embodiment is similar to the first specific embodiment except for the following difference. As shown in FIG. 3C, five color correction matrices CCM1, CCM2, CCM3, CCM4 and CCM5 are provided. Specifically, CCM1 represents a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source without IR signal, CCM2 represents a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source without IR signal, CCM3 represents a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source with an IR signal and for an image center, CCM4 represents a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source with an IR signal and for an image center, and CCM5 represents a color correction matrix with a high IR signal and for an image corner. The CT weight CT_alpha is used to blend CCM1 and CCM2 by using a first blending unit **132**, thereby generating a first blended CCM. The CT weight CT_alpha is also used to blend CCM3 and CCM4 by using a second blending unit **134**, thereby generating a second blended CCM. The CRA weight CRA_alpha is used to blend the second blended CCM and CCM5 by using a third blending unit **136**, thereby generating a third blended CCM. The IR weight IR_alpha is used to blend the first blended CCM and the third blended CCM by using a fourth blending unit **138**, thereby generating a fourth (or final) blended CCM.

Details of implementing some pertinent blocks of FIG. 3A/3B/3C and FIG. **1** will be described in the following. The color temperature estimator **14** (FIG. **1**) estimates a color temperature of a light source according to gains, which may be provided, for example, by a white balancing unit (not shown). Specifically, as exemplified by a relationship between gains for red (RGain) and gains for blue (BGain) in FIG. 4A, a high color-temperature light source contains more power for short wavelength band (i.e., blue). Therefore, a higher gain for red channel is needed to make a balanced white object with equal red, green and blue values. On the other hand, a low color-temperature light source contains more power for long wavelength band (i.e., red). Therefore, a higher gain for blue channel is needed to make a balanced white object with equal red, green and blue values. Accordingly, the color temperature estimator **14** may provide the color temperature index indicating an estimated color temperature of a light source, according to the gains, particularly the gains for red and blue. Specifically speaking, the color

temperature index of the embodiment is a gain difference of blue and red (i.e., BGain−RGain).

Afterwards, the CT weight generator **131** (FIG. 3A/3B/3C) generates the CT weight CT_alpha according to the color temperature index. FIG. 4B shows a relationship between the CT weight CT_alpha and the gain difference of blue and red. As exemplified in FIG. 4B, the CT weight CT_alpha linearly rises from 0 at a low threshold Th_l of the gain difference toward 1 at a high threshold Th_h of the gain difference. The CT weight CT_alpha is 0 when the gain difference is less than the low threshold Th_l, and the CT weight CT_alpha is 1 when the gain difference is greater than the high threshold Th_h.

FIG. 5A shows a block diagram illustrated of the IR estimator **15** of FIG. 1. Specifically, raw signals (from the image sensor **23**) are demultiplexed (by a demultiplexer **151**) to accumulators **152** for red, green, blue and IR pixels, respectively. The accumulated red, green, blue and IR pixels (from the accumulators **152**) are then divided (by pixel count) by dividers **153** for red, green, blue and IR pixels, respectively, thereby resulting in average signals for red, green, blue and IR pixels (i.e., R_avg, G_avg, B_avg and IR_avg). A summation unit **154** adds the average signals for red, green and blue pixels together, and the sum then divides the average signal for IR pixels (by a dividing unit **155**). The quotient is then clipped within 0 and 1 by a clipping unit **156**, thereby generating the IR ratio.

Subsequently, the IR weight generator **133** (FIG. 3A/3B/3C) generates the IR weight IR_alpha according to the IR ratio. FIG. 5B shows a relationship between the IR weight IR_alpha and the IR ratio. As exemplified in FIG. 5B, the IR weight IR_alpha linearly rises from 0 at a low threshold Th_l of the IR ratio toward 1 at a high threshold Th_h of the IR ratio. The IR weight IR_alpha is 0 when the IR ratio is less than the low threshold Th_l, and the IR weight IR_alpha is 1 when the IR ratio is greater than the high threshold Th_h.

Regarding the CRA weight generator **135** in FIG. 3A/3B/3C, FIG. 6A shows a relationship between the CRA weight CRA_alpha and a (scaled) distance R of a pixel with respect to an image center. As exemplified in FIG. 6A, the CRA weight CRA_alpha linearly or nonlinearly rises from 0 at a low threshold Th_l of the distance R toward 1 at a high threshold Th_h of the distance R. The CRA weight CRA_alpha is 0 when the distance R is less than the low threshold Th_l, and the CRA weight CRA_alpha is 1 when the distance R is greater than the high threshold Th_h. FIG. 6B shows another relationship among the CRA weight CRA_alpha, a (scaled) X-coordinate and a (scaled) Y-coordinate.

The first blending unit **132**, the second blending unit **134**, the third blending unit **136** and the fourth blending unit **138** in FIG. 3A/3B/3C may be performed as expressed below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ e_4 & e_5 & e_6 \\ e_7 & e_8 & e_9 \end{bmatrix} = \text{alpha} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \\ c_4 & c_5 & c_6 \\ c_7 & c_8 & c_9 \end{bmatrix} + (1 - \text{alpha}) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & d_2 & d_3 \\ d_4 & d_5 & d_6 \\ d_7 & d_8 & d_9 \end{bmatrix}$$

where alpha represents CT_alpha, IR_alpha or CRA_alpha, [c1 . . . c9] and [d1 . . . d9] represent CCM inputs to the blending unit, and [e1 . . . e9] represents a CCM output from the blending unit.

Alternatively, for better performance, different CRA_alpha may be used in the third blending unit **136** as expressed below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ e_4 & e_5 & e_6 \\ e_7 & e_8 & e_9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1(x, y) \cdot c_1 + (1 - \alpha_1(x, y)) \cdot d_1 & \alpha_2(x, y) \cdot c_2 + (1 - \alpha_2(x, y)) \cdot d_2 & \alpha_3(x, y) \cdot c_3 + (1 - \alpha_3(x, y)) \cdot d_3 \\ \alpha_4(x, y) \cdot c_4 + (1 - \alpha_4(x, y)) \cdot d_4 & \alpha_5(x, y) \cdot c_5 + (1 - \alpha_5(x, y)) \cdot d_5 & \alpha_6(x, y) \cdot c_6 + (1 - \alpha_6(x, y)) \cdot d_6 \\ \alpha_7(x, y) \cdot c_7 + (1 - \alpha_7(x, y)) \cdot d_7 & \alpha_8(x, y) \cdot c_8 + (1 - \alpha_8(x, y)) \cdot d_8 & \alpha_9(x, y) \cdot c_9 + (1 - \alpha_9(x, y)) \cdot d_9 \end{bmatrix}$$

The color correction unit **137** in FIG. 3A/3B/3C may be performed as expressed below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_o \\ G_o \\ B_o \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \\ c_4 & c_5 & c_6 \\ c_7 & c_8 & c_9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_i \\ G_i \\ B_i \end{bmatrix}$$

where [Ri Gi Bi] represents the color (i.e., R, G and B) signals, and [Ro Go Bo] represents the corrected color (i.e., R, G and B) signals, and [c1 . . . c9] represents the final blended color correction matrix.

Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention, which is intended to be limited solely by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing system adaptable to a dual-mode image device, comprising:
 - an adaptive color correction system coupled to receive an image, and configured to adaptively correct for color distortion according to a chief ray angle (CRA) of a pixel of the image and an IR signal from the dual-mode image device associated with a light source,
 - wherein the dual-mode image device comprises:
 - a lens that passes light;
 - a dual-band IR-cut filter that optically receives the light passed from the lens in order to pass visible light and a range of IR light;
 - a filter array composed of color filters and IR filters, the filter array optically receiving the light passed from the dual-band IR-cut filter in order to generate optical color information; and
 - an image sensor disposed below the filter array to convert the optical color information to an electronic signal.
2. The image processing system of claim 1, wherein the adaptive color correction system performs correction further according to a color temperature of the light source.
3. The image processing system of claim 2, wherein the adaptive color correction system performs correction according to the color temperature and an image center.
4. The image processing system of claim 3, wherein the adaptive color correction system performs correction according to the IR signal and an image corner.
5. The image processing system of claim 4, wherein the adaptive color correction system comprises:
 - a plurality of color correction matrices (CCMs) for different color-temperature light sources, IR signals or CRAs;
 - a color temperature (CT) weight generator that receives a color temperature index and accordingly generates a color temperature (CT) weight;
 - an IR weight generator that receives an IR ratio and accordingly generates an IR weight;
 - a CRA weight generator that generates a CRA weight according to a pixel coordinate of the image; and

7

a color correction unit that performs color correction on color signals of the image, thereby generating corrected color signals;

wherein the plurality of CCMs are blended to generate a final blended CCM according to the CT weight, the IR weight and the CRA weight; and the color correction unit is performed according to the final blended CCM.

6. The image processing system of claim 5, further comprising a color temperature estimator that estimates the color temperature of the light source according to gains, thereby generating the color temperature index.

7. The image processing system of claim 6, wherein the color temperature index is a gain difference of blue and red.

8. The image processing system of claim 7, wherein the CT weight linearly increases from 0 at a predetermined low threshold of the gain difference toward 1 at a predetermined high threshold of the gain difference.

9. The image processing system of claim 5, further comprising an IR estimator that receives raw signals from the dual-mode image device, and accordingly generates the IR ratio.

10. The image processing system of claim 9, wherein the IR estimator comprises:

a demultiplexer that demultiplexes the raw signals;

a plurality of accumulators that receive demultiplexed raw signals, and then accumulate color pixels and IR pixels respectively;

a plurality of dividers that respectively divide accumulated color pixels and IR pixels by corresponding pixel counts, thereby resulting in average signals for color pixels and IR pixels;

a summation unit that adds the average signals for color pixels to generate a sum;

a dividing unit that divides the average signal for IR pixels by the sum, thereby generating a quotient; and

a clipping unit that clips the quotient, thereby generating the IR ratio.

11. The image processing system of claim 9, wherein the IR weight linearly increases from 0 at a predetermined low threshold of the IR ratio toward 1 at a predetermined high threshold of the IR ratio.

12. The image processing system of claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of CCMs include a first CCM representing a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source and for the image center, a second CCM representing a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source and for the image center, a third CCM representing a color correction matrix for a light source with a low IR signal and for the image corner, and a fourth CCM representing a color correction matrix for a light source with a high IR signal and for the image corner;

the first CCM and the second CCM are blended according to the CT weight, thereby generating a first blended CCM;

the third CCM and the fourth CCM are blended according to the IR weight, thereby generating a second blended CCM; and

8

the first blended CCM and the second blended CCM are blended according to the CRA weight, thereby generating the final blended CCM.

13. The image processing system of claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of CCMs include a first CCM representing a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source and for the image center, a second CCM representing a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source and for the image center, and a third CCM representing a color correction matrix for a light source with a high IR signal and for the image corner;

the first CCM and the second CCM are blended according to the CT weight, thereby generating a first blended CCM;

the first blended CCM and the third CCM are blended according to the IR weight, thereby generating a second blended CCM; and

the first blended CCM and the second blended CCM are blended according to the CRA weight, thereby generating the final blended CCM.

14. The image processing system of claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of CCMs include a first CCM representing a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source without IR signal, a second CCM representing a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source without IR signal, a third CCM representing a color correction matrix for a high color-temperature light source with an IR signal and for the image center, a fourth CCM representing a color correction matrix for a low color-temperature light source with an IR signal and for the image center, and a fifth CCM representing a color correction matrix for a light source with a high IR signal and for the image corner;

the first CCM and the second CCM are blended according to the CT weight, thereby generating a first blended CCM;

the third CCM and the fourth CCM are blended according to the CT weight, thereby generating a second blended CCM;

the second blended CCM and the fifth CCM are blended according to the CRA weight, thereby generating a third blended CCM; and

the first blended CCM and the third blended CCM are blended according to the IR weight, thereby generating the final blended CCM.

15. The image processing system of claim 1, further comprising a lens shading correction (LSC) unit that receives an electronic signal from the dual-mode image device, and corrects for lens shading artifacts.

16. The image processing system of claim 15, further comprising a demosaicking unit that receives an output of the LSC unit, and reconstructs the image from color samples outputted from the dual-mode image device.

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